

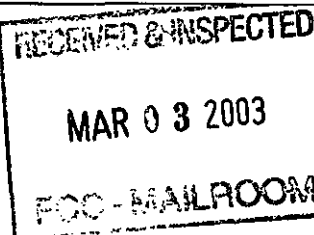
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



You Can Get There From Here.

February 27, 2003

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street; S.W. - Portals
Washington, DC 20554



10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044-3197
410-772-4800
TDD: 410-772-4822
www.howardcc.edu

Confirmed

MAR 04 2003

Distribution Center

Re: WC Docket No. **02-384** - Application of Verizon Maryland Inc, For authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in the State of Maryland

Dear Ms. Salas:

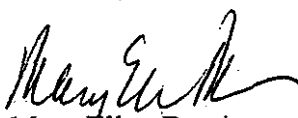
I am writing in regard to WC Docket No. **02-384**, Verizon's request to offer long-distance service to Maryland residential and commercial customers. Verizon has been very supportive of education, and understands the importance of access to education. They have established that telecommunications can be a critical asset to improve access to education for all of Maryland's residents.

Located in Columbia, Maryland, Howard Community College serves approximately **8,000** credit students each year, with an additional 12,000 students enrolled in non-credit courses. About **43** percent of all undergraduates from Howard County are enrolled at Howard Community College.

Distance learning is an important part of our enrollment. We offer on-line instruction for a variety of our courses to further the advantage and opportunity of our students. We also include technology in our classrooms, and Verizon has been a large part of our technological implementation. Verizon has also contributed equipment to be used by our disabled students, and created a cyber-café in our cafeteria for student use.

Verizon, Inc. has proven to be a great supporter and partner for education in Maryland, and we believe that more competition in the long distance market would be beneficial to Maryland's consumers. Howard Community College offers support for the approval of the Verizon request.

Sincerely,


Mary Ellen Duncan
President

MED/js

No. of Copies rec'd
List/ABCDE